New Nouveau Brunswick CANADA

News Release

Communications New Brunswick

N. B. Human Rights Commission

Human Rights Award recipient announced (03/09/11)

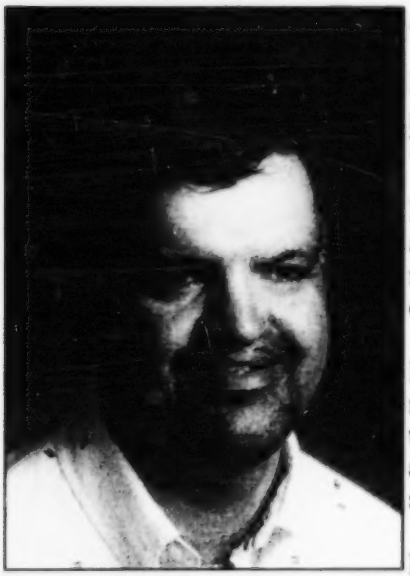
NB 780

Sept. 11, 2003

FREDERICTON (CNB) - Eugène LeBlanc of Memramcook N.B. will receive the 2003 New Brunswick Human Rights Award this Sunday in Fredericton.

"New Brunswick Human Rights Day, September 15, is a day to reaffirm our commitment to achieve equality and to promote respect for individual differences and appreciation of diversity," said Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, chair of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission.

"It is also an excellent time to thank those who have worked to improve human rights in New Brunswick. This year, we are very pleased to be able to recognize Eugène LeBlanc for his outstanding contribution."



Eugène LeBlanc. (Large photo.)

LeBlanc was selected because of his many years of innovative grassroots efforts to create social and vocational opportunities for New Brunswickers who have experienced a mental illness.

He has enhanced public awareness of mental health / illness issues and has been able to convey to the public the need to respect the rights of people with mental disabilities and to treat them with dignity.

LeBlanc is the publisher and editor of Our Voice / Notre Voix, a respected publication with an international circulation that promotes the viewpoints of people with psychiatric content in their lives. He also leads a client-run activity centre in Moncton called Groupe de support émotionnel Inc.

In addition, he proposed and co-ordinated a provincial survey on the level of satisfaction with mental health services in New Brunswick. He is now working to see that its recommendations are implemented.

LeBlanc also provided policy advice to many boards and committees, including the former N.B. Mental Health Commission, the N.B. Mental Health Consumer Network, the National Network for Mental Health and a committee of the national Canadian Mental Health Association. Since 1987, he has

2008-00959/

travelled the country extensively to share his ideas.

"I am deeply moved by the recognition given to me through the 2003 Human Rights Award in attempting to better the lives of those having a mental illness," LeBlanc said.

The award will be presented by Lt.-Gov. Herménégilde Chiasson on Sunday at Old Government House in Fredericton.

The Human Rights Award was established by the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission in 1988 to recognize outstanding effort, achievement or leadership on a volunteer basis in the promotion of human rights and equality. Last year's recipient was the Multicultural Association of Fredericton.

The award is presented around New Brunswick Human Rights Day, Sept. 15, which was declared by the premier last year. That date marks the anniversary of the coming into effect of the New Brunswick Human Rights Act in 1967.

More information is available online at: http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/award03.htm and http://www.gnb.ca/hrc-cdp/e/index.htm.

03/09/11

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Human Rights Award ceremony will start at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 14 at Old Government House in Fredericton. MEDIA CONTACTS: Eugène LeBlanc, recipient, 506-857-1340 (Mon.-Fri. 1-4 p.m.; Wed. 6-8 p.m.); Dr. Patrick Malcolmson, chair, New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, Fredericton, 506-453-2301.

03/09/11

Communications New Brunswick
E-mail | Contacts | Disclaimer | Privacy Statement